

PROCEEDINGS
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TWO NEW RALLIFORMES FROM TROPICAL AMERICA.

BY J. H. RILEY.

[By permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.]

Mr. Robert Ridgway has called my attention to two apparently undescribed forms of Ralliformes in the collection of the U. S. National Museum and has kindly permitted me to describe them. I am indebted to the authorities of the American Museum of Natural History for the loan of the type and five specimens of the lately described *Fulica americana columbiana* Chapman. The two forms may be described as follows:

***Fulica americana grenadensis* subsp. nov.**

Type, female adult, U. S. National Museum, No. 84,849, Isle de Rhonde, Grenada, B. W. I., May 9, 1881. Collected by J. G. Wells.

Similar to *Fulica americana columbiana* Chapman,* but the bill proportionally heavier and more wrinkled; the frontal shield more swollen. Wing, 184.5; tail, 47.5; culmen with frontal shield, 50.5; depth of bill at base, 17.5; tarsus, 56; middle toe, 72.

Remarks.—While this form is very close to the lately described *Fulica americana columbiana*, I think the differences are sufficient to warrant separation, especially as the ranges are widely separated. The type of *Fulica americana grenadensis* has the upper part of the bill rather deeply wrinkled longitudinally, showing that it must have been much swollen in life. While it is well known that the upper part of the bill and frontal shield become much swollen in the breeding season in the coots, I have found no specimen in the series of *Fulica americana americana* or *Fulica americana columbiana* where it occurs to the same extent. From *Fulica caribæa* the new form differs in the same way as *columbiana* does from that species and as Chapman has already pointed out the differences in his description of *columbiana* they need not be repeated here. The frontal shield in *Fulica americana grenadensis* is similar in shape and color to that of *F. a. americana*, but more swollen and larger and the bill much

* Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., xxxiii. 1914, 170.

heavier. In color there seems to be little difference in the four forms under consideration, except that *F. a. columbiana* appears to average slightly darker than *F. a. americana*, and the white edging on the outer primary and the white tips on the inner secondaries more restricted; in these respects *F. a. grenadensis* resembles *F. a. columbiana*. The measurements of the four forms are as follows:

	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen with frontal Shield.	Depth of bill at base.
Five females of <i>F. caribæa</i>	174.6	49	47	14.8
Six females of <i>F. a. americana</i>	177	50.3	42.7	13.5
One female of <i>F. a. grenadensis</i>	184.5	47.5	50.5	17.5
Three females of <i>F. a. columbiana</i>	186.3	49.5	51.2	16

***Creciscus murivagans* sp. nov.**

Type, male adult, U. S. National Museum, No. 159,769, Lima, Peru, Oct. 1, 1889. Collected by J. Kalinowski.

Similar to *Creciscus salinazi*, but lighter both above and below and with the white bars on the back and wings more numerous and better defined.

Description.—Top of head blackish slate; nape mars brown, shading into russet on hind neck and upper back; back and scapulars fuscous washed with russet and crossed with numerous buffy and white bars; rump and upper tail-coverts fuscous narrowly barred with white and buff; tail fuscous-black narrowly barred with white; sides of face, throat, and breast deep neutral gray, slightly lighter on sides of face and throat; lores blackish slate with an indistinct lighter loreal streak; abdomen pinkish buff with obscure dusky bars; anal region and crissum light pinkish cinnamon, with fuscous and white bars basally concealed; flanks fuscous with white or buffy white bars; bend of wing white; wing-coverts a little lighter than the back barred with white; remiges hair brown with irregular white spots on the outer web and elliptical spots of white on the inner webs, these spots increasing in size inwards; under wing-coverts white with a few dusky markings; thighs light pinkish cinnamon. Wing, 76; tail, 33.5; culmen, 15; tarsus, 22.5; middle toe, 24.5.

Remarks.—From *Creciscus jamaicensis* the above species differs in being lighter above, especially the hind neck, which is quite a different shade of brown (russet), carob brown in *Creciscus jamaicensis*. The bars on the back in *C. murivagans* are better defined and do not show a tendency to break up into spots as they do in *C. jamaicensis*.

The Museum possesses an immature female taken on the same day and place and by the same collector as the type. It differs from a female of *Creciscus salinazi* in about the same stage of plumage in being lighter both above and below, with the chin and throat more extensively whitish.